

# Sibford Gower

## Annual Parish Meeting

Notes of the meeting held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May @ 6:30pm via zoom video conferencing

Cllr Allen, Cllr Mallows, Cllr Pougatch, Cllr Berks, 10 members of the public, Clerk.

- 1. Welcome, apologies and introduction** – Cllr Allen advised that the Annual Parish Meeting is not a council meeting and is a meeting for parishioners. Cllr Pidgeon is unable to attend this meeting but he should be back in time for the PC meeting at 7pm so Cllr Allen will Chair this meeting as the Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council (PC). The PC hope to host a “village showcase” at the Village Hall later in 2021 to offer village organisations an opportunity to engage with the community.

There have been 3 additions to the Parish Council team in the last year. Kirsty Buttle joined as Parish Clerk and Alan Berks joined as a Cllr in March 2020, and Victoria Pougatch joined as a Cllr in October 2020.

Two nominations have been made to join the Town Estates Charity - Joan Brody and Brain Heather.

The Sibford Support Group has included 90 volunteers who have provided lots of support to parishioners throughout the pandemic.

Over the last year the PC has improved its financial and administration processes, updated the website and policies, completed training, and worked on various liaison with CDC and OCC. Cllr Pidgeon manages the burial ground administration and liaises with the funeral directors & families.

Also over the last year, the PC commenced a comprehensive review of their management of the four land areas for which they currently have responsibility. This review will be concluded in the coming year.

There have been 59 planning applications received over the last year and Cllr Mallows has done fantastic and detailed work in reviewing all of these applications and making recommendations.

Neither of the Sibfords PCs had any involvement in the allocation of S106 funds in relation to the Hook Norton Road development, but identified concerns are being followed up by the Sibford Ferris Parish Council.

The focus of the PC over the coming year is expected to include:

- Progressing and concluding the Landscape Management Review
- Promoting and hosting a “village showcase” event in the Village Hall
- Identifying ownership and facilitating maintenance of roadside benches

- Developing and submitting an ACV application for the Blaze Inn Saddles
- Facilitating resuscitation and defibrillator training
- Considering support to community action on the village pond and on speeding issues in the parish
- Developing a generic Emergency Plan informed by experience of the Sibford Support Group
- Considering the implications of climate change for the parish.

- 2. Public forum – parishioners are welcome to raise any issues they wish to discuss subject to remaining time available** – A parishioner asked what the plan is for the pond. Cllrs advised that the pond does not belong to the PC and has previously been managed by a pond action group. Due to work pressures, ill health and COVID the pond action group folded and the £500 provided by the Town Estates Charity (TEC) was returned to them. The land registry shows the area of land which includes the pond is unregistered.

A parishioner expressed their thanks for the help they have received through the Sibford Support Group during COVID.

A parishioner stated that they are not sure that the Sibfords are big enough to run a climate change group.

**Meeting closed @ 6:58pm**